

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01 /058 W

----- 040868

R 250810 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 024

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL DA NANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0225

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, VS

SUBJECT: MINH CREDITS PRG WITH MINIMUM OF MR 3 REAL ESTATE

1. IF THE PRG IS DEPENDENT UPON MR 3 CG LTG NGUYRN VAN MINH FOR ITS SHARE OF THE REAL ESTATE IN MR 3, IT WILL END UP WITH NO MORE TERRITORY THAN THAT WHICH IS EXCLUSIVELY IDENTIFIED WITH KNOWN BASE AREAS. MINH SHOWED ME A MAP THIS MORNING (JUNE 25) WHICH HE SAID WAS PREPARED BY HIS PEOPLE, UNDER JGS GUIDANCE, IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRG OVER WHO CONTROLS WHAT IN MR 3. MINH' S MAP CREDITS THE PRG WITH SMALL PLOTS OF LAND WHICH HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE GVN OVER THE YEARS AS VC BASE AREAS. THE REST OF THE MAP SHOWS MOST OF THE REGION, PARTICULARLY POPULATED AREAS, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GVN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO THOSE CREDITED TO THE PRG WHICH ARE DEPICTED AS " NO- MAN' S LAND."

2. I ASKED MINH IF HE THOUGHT HIS VERSION OF CONTROLLED TERRITORY WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE PRG. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO. I THEN ASKED HIM IF HIS MAP WAS NEGOTIABLE. HE LAUGHED AND NODDED HIS HEAD AFFIRMATIVELY. HE MADE THE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH " GIVE" IN HIS VERSION. HE SAID THAT A SMALL NUMBER

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OF COMMUNISTS HERE AND THERE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS CONTROL,
NOR SHOULD IT BE CONSTRUED IN THAT LIGHT.

3. COMMENT: I CAME AWAY FROM THIS MORNING' S MEETING FULLY CON-
VINCED THAT WHAT MINH SHOWED ME WAS THE GVN' S INITIAL POSITION AND
THAT THERE WAS, CONTRARY TO WHAT HE HAD SAID, PLENTY OF ROOM FOR
MODIFICATION DURING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. MINH WAS OBVIOUSLY ACTING
UNDER ORDERS FROM ABOVE BECAUSE HE HAS IN PAST DISCUSSIONS
PERSONALLY
CREDITED THE PRG WITH MORE TERRITORY THAN WHAT HE HAD ON THE MAP.
HIS CHOICE OF " NO MAN' S LAND" TO IDENTIFY AREAS LOCATED RELATIVELY
CLOSE TO NVA/ VC BASE CAMPS WAS NO MISTAKE. MINH REALIZES THAT IN
THESE PARTICULAR AREAS, THE GVN HAS NOT BEEN PRESENT FOR QUITE SOME
TIME AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE MOVED ABOUT
THEM WITH IMPUNITY. HIS VIEW HERE IS THAT THE PRG WILL NEED TO SHOW
MORE THAN PRESENCE TO CLAIM CONTROL. MINH HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN
THE
POSITION THAT CONTROL MEANS THE EXISTENCE OF LONG- STANDING VIABLE
INSTITUTIONS, NOT A FEW COMMUNISTS RUNNING ABOUT. HE KNOWS THAT
THE
COMMUNISTS CANNOT DEMONSTRATE SUCH CONTROL, THUS HIS REASON FOR
IDENTIFYING UNINHABITED AREAS AS " NO- MAN' S LAND."
WALKINSHAW

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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